



AGENDA

URAPUNGA LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING

TUESDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2022

Notice is given that the next Urapunga Local Authority Meeting of the Roper Gulf Regional Council will be held on:

Tuesday, 6 December 2022 at 3:00pm
Urapunga Primary School, Urapunga

Or Via Video/Phone Conference

ID #: (03) 9260 6977
Guest Pin: 8475

Your attendance at the meeting will be appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Gardner", is positioned above the name and title of the Chief Executive Officer.

Marc GARDNER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

URAPUNGA CURRENT MEMBERSHIP:

Elected Members

1. Mayor Tony JACK;
2. Councillor Owen TURNER;
3. Councillor Jana DANIELS.

Appointed Members

1. Dennis DUNCAN (Chairperson);
2. Elaine DUNCAN;
3. Amanda JEFFS;
4. Paul JEFFS;
5. Edna NELSON; and
6. Antonella PASCOE.

MEMBERS: 9

COUNCIL: 3

LOCAL AUTHORITY: 6

QUORUM: 5 (minimum requirement)

PROVISIONAL: 3 (minimum requirement)

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

Meetings must meet a quorum of 50% + 1 of all Members.

If no quorum is achieved, a provisional meeting can be held in one third of the total members (elected members and appointed members) are present.

During a provisional meeting, all agenda items may be discussed, and minutes must be kept.

Members at a provisional meeting may by majority vote make recommendations to Council. However, the recommendations shall be considered as those of a provisional meeting rather than a quorum meeting of the Local Authority.

A provisional meeting does not have the power or functions delegated to a Local Authority and cannot approve minutes of a Local Authority meeting.

Local Authority appointed members are paid for attending meetings (not for informal meetings or Roper Gulf Regional Council Employees during their hours of work).

PLEDGE

“We pledge to work as one towards a better future through effective use of all resources.

We have identified these key values and principles of Honesty, Equality, Accountability, Respect and Trust as being integral in the achievement of our vision, that the Roper Gulf Regional Council is Sustainable, Viable and Vibrant.”

PRAMIS BLA WI

“Mela pramis bla wek gudbalawei bla meigim futja bla wi wanwei, en bla yusim ola gudwan ting bla helpum wi luk lida.

Mela bin luk ol dijlod rul, ebrobodi gada tok trubalawei, wi gada meik so wi gibit firgo en lisin misalp, abum rispek en trastim misalp bla jinggabat bla luk lida, Roper Galf Rijinul Kaunsul deya maindim en kipbum bla wi pramis, dum wek brabli gudbalawei, en im laibliwan.”

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CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES



ITEM NUMBER	7.1
TITLE	Confirmation of the Urapunga Local Authority Meeting Previous Minutes
REFERENCE	1309222
AUTHOR	Chloe IRLAM, Governance Engagement Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

That the Urapunga Local Authority confirms the minutes from the meeting held on 20 September 2022 and affirms them to be a true and accurate record of that meeting's decisions and proceedings

KEY OUTCOME AREA

Governance: Increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the organisation, including in engagement with staff members, residents and external stakeholders.

BACKGROUND

The Urapunga Local Authority met as a **PROVISIONAL** on Tuesday, 20 September 2022 at 3:00pm. Attached are the recorded minutes for the Local Authority to confirm.

ISSUES/OPTIONS/SWOT

The next Urapunga Local Authority Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 07 March 2023 at 3:00pm.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 URA_20092022_MIN.pdf



MINUTES OF THE ROPER GULF REGIONAL COUNCIL, URAPUNGA LOCAL
AUTHORITY MEETING HELD AT THE URAPUNGA PRIMARY SCHOOL
URAPUNGA ON TUESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 3:07PM

1 PRESENT MEMBERS/STAFF/GUESTS

1.1 Members

- Dennis DUNCAN (Chairperson);
- Edna NELSON; and
- Antonella PASCOE.

1.2 Staff

- Marc GARDNER, Chief Executive Officer; and
- Debbie BRANSON, Executive Assistant.

1.3 Guests

Nil.

2 MEETING OPENED

The Urupunga Local Authority Meeting opened at 3:07pm with a **PROVISIONAL** meeting. The Chairperson welcomed members, staff and guests to the meeting and the Roper Gulf Regional Council Pledge was read.

3 WELCOME TO COUNTRY

4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4.1 APOLOGIES

URA P-22/2022 (Antonella PASCOE/Edna NELSON)

CARRIED

That the Ngukurr Local Authority:

- (a) accepts the tendered apologies from Mayor Tony JACK, Cr Owen TURNER, Cr Jana DANIELS and Elaine DUNCAN; and
- (b) notes the absence with no apologies from Amanda JEFFS and Paul JEFFS.

5 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Nil.

6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this Urupunga Local Authority Meeting.

7 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**7.1 CONFIRMATION OF THE URAPUNGA LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING PREVIOUS MINUTES**

URA P-23/2022 (Edna NELSON/Antonella PASCOE) **CARRIED**

That the Urapunga Local Authority confirms the minutes from the meeting held on 28 June 2022 and affirms them to be a true and accurate record of that meeting's decisions and proceedings

8 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**8.1 ACTION LIST**

URA P-24/2022 (Dennis DUNCAN/Edna NELSON) **CARRIED**

That the Urapunga Local Authority receives and notes the Action List.

9 CALL FOR ITEMS OF OTHER BUSINESS

Nil.

10 INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

11 OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

11.1 OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

URA P-25/2022 (Antonella PASCOE/Edna NELSON) **CARRIED**

That the Urapunga Local Authority notes the outgoing correspondence.

12 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

Nil.

13 GENERAL BUSINESS**13.1 COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 01.07.2022 - 31.07.2022**

URA P-26/2022 (Edna NELSON/Antonella PASCOE) **CARRIED**

That the Urapunga Local Authority receives and notes the Financial (Expenditure) Report for the period 01 July 2022 to 31 July 2022

13.2 LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBER ATTENDANCE REPORT

URA P-27/2022 (Dennis DUNCAN/Antonella PASCOE) **CARRIED**

That the Urapunga Local Authority receives and notes the Local Authority Member Attendance Report.

13.3 LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECT REGISTER UPDATE

URA P-28/2022 (Edna NELSON/Antonella PASCOE) **CARRIED**

That the Urapunga Local Authority receives and notes the Local Authority Project Funding Report.

13.4 ELECTED MEMBER REPORT

URA P-29/2022 (Dennis DUNCAN/Edna NELSON) **CARRIED**

That the Urapunga Local Authority receive and note the Elected Member Report.

13.5 LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECT FUNDING CERTIFICATION

URA P-30/2022 (Edna NELSON/Dennis DUNCAN) **CARRIED**

That Local Authority approves the Certification of Local Authority Project Funding Report for 2021-22

13.6 2023 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS AND CELEBRATIONS

URA P-31/2022 (Edna NELSON/Antonella PASCOE) **CARRIED**

That the Urapunga Local Authority:

- (a) receives and notes the 2023 Australia Awards and Celebrations report; and
- (b) call for nominations from within the community for a Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Event of the Year for the regional awards; and
- (c) celebrates 2023 Australia Day with the Ngukurr community with a barbeque and football game.

13.7 FEDERAL DIRECT ENROLMENT UPDATE - TRIAL FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN REMOTE COMMUNITIES

URA P-32/2022 (Dennis DUNCAN/Edna NELSON) **CARRIED**

That the Urapunga Local Authority receives and notes the Federal Direct Enrolment Update - Trial for People Living in Remote Communities report.

13.8 COUNCIL SERVICES REPORT

URA P-33/2022 (Edna NELSON/Antonella PASCOE) **CARRIED**

That the Urapunga Local Authority receives and notes the Council Services report.

14 OTHER BUSINESS**14.1 MAINTENANCE, WASTE AND WEEDING**

The Urapunga Local Authority requested that the playground equipment be replaced, the hinges on the gate to the old cemetery be relocated, the rubbish at the dump be pushed back and assistance be provided to level the ground and to control the weeds at the cemetery.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that the Council Service Coordinator will be advised and available to assistant.

14 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**MOVE TO CONFIDENTIAL**

URA P-34/2022 (Edna NELSON/Dennis DUNCAN)

CARRIED

That pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential items of the Agenda:-

15.1 Confirmation of the Urapunga Local Authority Meeting Previous Confidential Minutes - *The report will conducted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2019 and Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 s51(1)(e), information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest.*

The meeting moved to the Confidential Items at 3:35pm.

RETURN TO OPEN

URA P-36/2022 (Dennis DUNCAN/Edna NELSON)

CARRIED

That pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 the meeting be re-opened to the public.

The meeting re-opened to the public at 3:36pm.

16 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 3:36pm.

This page and the proceeding pages are the Minutes of the Urapunga Local Authority Meeting held on Tuesday, 20 September 2022 and confirmed Tuesday, 06 December 2022.

Dennis DUNCAN (Chairperson)
Confirmed on Tuesday, 06 December 2022.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES



ITEM NUMBER	8.1
TITLE	Action List
REFERENCE	1297812
AUTHOR	Chloe IRLAM, Governance Engagement Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

That the Urapunga Local Authority receives and notes the Action List.

BACKGROUND

The Action List is a summary of tasks that the Local Authority has requested be undertaken by Council staff. The table also identifies the Staff member assigned to the task by the Chief Executive Officer.

The Action List is a **non-authoritative** reference document for Business Arising out of Previous Minutes. The highlighted points are the actionable item of each **resolved** matter.

URAPUNGA ACTION LIST

8.1 ACTION LIST

10/2022

That the Urapunga Local Authority:

- (a) receives and notes the Action List; and
- (b) requests the Chief Executive Officer to write to Telstra regarding Mobile Coverage in Urapunga as per Item number 14.2 with resolution number 7/2022 from Urapunga Local Authority Meeting held on 08 March 2022.

Report in Agenda?

Currently negotiating with Telstra

14.1 SOLAR LIGHTS IN THE PLAYGROND AND TOWARDS THE SHOP

20/2022

That the Urapunga Local Authority:

- (a) allocates \$18,800 to install solar lights on the road to the store, the playground and in the garden bed; and
- (b) requests the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report to next Urapunga Local Authority Meeting in regards to upgrading the playground to soft fall.

Report in Agenda?

*Solar lights on order – soft fall
under investigation*

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

OPERATIONAL REPORTS



ITEM NUMBER	12.1
TITLE	Local Authority Review Report
REFERENCE	1304988
AUTHOR	Marc GARDNER, Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That the Urapunga Local Authority receives and notes the Local Authority Review report.

KEY OUTCOME AREA

Wellbeing: Contribute to the wellbeing of residents individually and communities as a whole; by fostering increased participation in community activities, education, healthy lifestyles, and a safe living environment.

Environment: Protect and care for the physical environment, including developing and maintenance of clean and environmentally focused communities.

Infrastructure: Support building and maintaining community infrastructure which positively contributes to resident needs and aspirations.

Economic Development: Foster strengthening and growing jobs, industries, and investment attraction.

Governance: Increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the organisation, including in engagement with staff members, residents and external stakeholders.

BACKGROUND

In March 2022 Council was provided a copy of the Local Government Desktop Review report which was sent to all regional councils for feedback. Feedback was provided and subsequent discussions took place with CEOs, Elected Members, Local Authority Members and representatives from the Northern Territory Government.

The next draft review report is attached. The document focuses on the core role of Local Authorities, and aims to strip back requirements that might detract from councils' and Local Authority ability to carry out that core role. It also provides flexibility for the Local Authorities to have a broader focus.

As outlined in the reports, Local Authorities were initially established as part of the regional local government structure, to respond to the concerns raised by community members that the creation of regional councils would mean they would lose their voices with local government. They were included in the *Local Government Act 2008*, and their role was strengthened in the 2019 Act. They are part of the regional council structure, and their role is essentially to support their council with two-way communication between their community and the council; to assist their community to have input into the council's planning, prioritisation, service delivery and funding in that community; to advocate for their community with council; recommend (or decide if delegated) where LA project funding should be prioritised, and, in turn, help the council to keep communities informed about planning and services.

Regional councils are encouraged to engage with their Local Authorities in developing feedback. Feedback on the document is to be submitted to the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet by 20 January 2023.

A representative from the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet will be invited to present to the Local Authority and provide assistance.

ISSUES/OPTIONS/SWOT

For discussion.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 LA Review Report - 12 October 2022 Draft.pdf

Local Authority Review Report

1. Background

Local authorities (LAs) were established in 2014 under section 53B of the former *Local Government Act 2008* (the 2008 Act). LAs were established as a response to concerns from communities that the transition from the former community government councils to regional councils led to a loss of communities' voices in the planning and delivery of council programs and services in their community.

The inclusion of LAs in the structure of regional councils is intended to ensure communities have a say in their regional councils' planning, prioritisation, funding and delivery of services and infrastructure for their community; and the provision of information and feedback to communities about the councils' decisions and activities in that community. The ultimate goal is effective, responsive council services for remote communities.

2. Intent of the Legislative Framework

On 1 July 2021, the intent of the 2008 Act was further strengthened when it was replaced with the *Local Government Act 2019* (the 2019 Act). In addition, the previous *Guideline 8: Regional councils and local authorities* (Guideline 8) was replaced by the new *Guideline 1: Local Authorities* (Guideline 1). The provisions in the 2019 Act were in a new chapter entitled Local Decision Making to reinforce the intent and purpose of LAs.

The 2019 Act requires regional councils to seek their LAs' advice and recommendations in relation to the council's budget; their priorities for expenditure; their service delivery; regional plans; strategic directions; and funding. Regional councils must also ensure their strategies and plans are informed by the vision and priorities of the LAs, and must work with their LAs to foster constructive working relationships between the council and community.

The 2019 Act specifically provides for expanded roles for LAs and a mechanism for giving communities a stronger voice in local government matters that affect them. Section 78 defines the functions of a LA:

- to involve local communities more closely in issues related to local government;
- ensure that local communities are given an opportunity to express their opinions on questions affecting local government;
- to allow local communities a voice in the formulation of policies for the locality as well as policies for the area and the region;
- to take the views of local communities back to the council and act as advocates on their behalf;
- to contribute to the development of the regional plan;
- to make recommendations to the council in relation to the council's budget and the part of the council's area within which the LA performs its functions.

Guideline 1 provides how LAs are to operate and be administered by their respective regional councils, including appointments and resignations, meetings, LA member payments and reporting.

3. Local Authority Review

In 2021, before the commencement of the 2019 Act, the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (CM&C) started a desktop review (Review 1) of how well regional councils and LAs were meeting the intent of the 2008 Act and Guideline 8. The aim of Review 1 was to identify good practice across the NT as well as areas that could be further strengthened, and to determine what actions could be considered to better support the delivery of the intent

Local Authority Review Report

of LAs given their expanded roles under the 2019 Act. Review 1 focused on the 66 LAs established across the Northern Territory for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Review 1 was informed by the information available on regional councils' websites, information held and observations made by CM&C and some feedback and insights provided by regional councils. The findings and draft recommendations were provided to councils and other stakeholders in early 2022 for comment.

The Review 1 report acknowledged limitations associated with any desktop process. However it provided a platform for more discussion with councils, LA members and others, resulting in the direction outlined in this report.

Review 1 confirmed that there is noticeable diversity in the functioning of LAs and the way councils work with them, with some LAs engaging strongly with their communities and working with their councils to deliver on community priorities and aspirations, and some others struggling to meet or attain quorum to enable recommendations to be made about community priorities. Some LAs, with their councils' support, consider broader matters than council business, acting as a forum and conduit for community engagement in matters including local, Territory and Commonwealth government priorities.

In addition, feedback from councils and LA members has indicated that some of the requirements placed on them by the NT Government, or interpretations of these requirements, are impeding their ability to achieve their core functions.

Feedback on Review 1 included the following:

Role of LAs:

- a need for greater recognition, promotion and celebration of the strengths of the LA model and more sharing of examples of LAs and their councils successfully achieving the intent of the Act;
- the need for CM&C, councils and LAs to have a clear and common understanding of the definition and scope of their core functions and requirements;

Flexibility:

- the need for flexibility in how LAs and their councils deliver on the core functions (or choose to move beyond the core) to respond to differences between communities, their aspirations and the capacity of LAs;
- providing for flexibility for those communities, LAs and councils who want to have more integrated engagement, not just on local government matters. For example, some communities would like to see a single body coordinating community input into local government and NT Government (or broader) planning, services and prioritisation; while others have indicated a preference that LA members continue to focus on local government and other groups are established or continue to provide input into NT Government and broader matters;
- recognition that some LAs are well established with consistent membership who deliver well-regarded outcomes for their communities and council, and others are less established; and that, over time, LAs may cycle through these stages. This impacts on the levels of support needed from councils for their LAs and the level of autonomy LAs may have, and needs to be accommodated in expectations set by CM&C and required of councils;

Decision making

Local Authority Review Report

- LAs should have as much influence and decision-making power as is appropriate to their stage of development and the delegations of the council; for example, some councils have already delegated decision making in the use of LA Project Funding (LAPF) to their LA, and some have delegated decision making over other community funding. The council is the decision-maker about the level of delegation relevant for their LA/s;

LA Members:

- a need for greater role clarity, capacity building and support for LA members and LA chairs;
- the need to revisit whether proxies should be permitted for LA members;

Administration:

- CM&C should remove any administrative requirements that detract from the ability of the LA and council to deliver on their core function. This needs to be balanced with good governance and accountable administrative process, reflecting that LAs are involved in the use of public resources and should be respected in their communities as informed, well governed and responsive structures;
- performance reporting should be focused on the intended outcome; ie the demonstration by councils of the engagement of communities through their LAs, and of the council's responsiveness to the advice, input and advocacy of their LA, including through the delivery of agreed community priorities;
- LAs should be able to set their own agendas and conduct their own meetings, while recognising the role of councils in managing administration, building capacity and responding to the varying levels of experience and capacity of members;

Resourcing/support

- some LAs and their councils continue to see benefit in having CM&C representatives at meetings at least occasionally, to coordinate responses to questions from community and LAs about NT Government matters, as well as to support engagement with other NT Government agencies;
- LAPF is a valuable resource for LAs and their councils to respond to community priorities. However, some councils struggle to spend these funds in the required time frames. The support role of CM&C is important in helping councils to address any barriers to the timely expenditure of funding on community priorities as determined by the LA and council;
- Accessible information should be provided to enable communities to understand how priorities for the use of LAPF are determined, and where they are spent;
- A need for a review of the LAPF guidelines to ensure their alignment with the core intent of the LAs;
- Any changes to the LA model should avoid requiring additional council resourcing. For example, where communities and their LAs want to have a broader role than council matters, there may need to be negotiation of partnering with NTG or others to share costs.

As a result of feedback and further discussions, the focus of the Review 1 report changed considerably into this report. This report emphasises the intent of the legislative framework for LAs and provides a principles-based direction for how this intent will be strengthened across the diverse councils of regional NT.

This review does not anticipate a change in the 2019 Act in relation to the role of LAs; LAs will remain part of their regional council structure, and continue to be subject to the control and direction of their relevant regional council.

4. Principles

Local Authority Review Report

The following principles have been developed to guide the way in which CM&C, regional councils and LAs will support the effective integration and involvement of communities in the system of local government, as intended in the 2019 Act. An amendment to Guideline 1 will be required to fulfil the aspirations below.

PRINCIPLE: Flexible governance	
<i>What does this mean?</i>	<p>All LAs have a core role: to enable their community to have a say in their regional councils' planning, prioritisation, budgeting, and service delivery for their community; and to support the provision of regular feedback to their communities about council activities and the achievement of LA priorities.</p> <p>Councils and their LAs, with their communities, will determine how they deliver the role so it is adaptable to different locations, community aspirations, and capacity. CM&C will facilitate the sharing of examples of good practice from LAs across the NT</p>
<i>What does this look like?</i>	<p>LAs, with their councils, decide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether they and their community prefer that the LA focus on council business or take a broader approach with a wider range of community matters. If a broader approach is agreed this may need negotiation of support from CM&C or other partners for non-council activities. Also, if a broader approach is agreed community input should ensure it avoids duplicating other community structures, authority or roles and that the role is understood and supported; • how the LA will conduct meetings and engage with their community; • how the LA will prioritise LAPF funds including how community input will be heard, how priorities will be decided, and how decisions and outcomes will be communicated to the community; • whether delegated decision making will be requested from the council; • the nomination process for LA members, with councils seeking LA and community input into their policy on criteria for selecting LA members; • the number of appointed members up to a maximum of 14; • whether the Mayor/President will be a member of LAs beyond their own ward; • the frequency of LA meetings (minimum four per year, with timing to enable input into, and feedback from, council planning); • the location of LA meetings - they should be held in public places to maximise opportunity for community members to attend; and • whether attendance at meetings via phone/video conference will be allowed. <p>First LA meetings to recommend to council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nomination of LA chair; • the kinds of priorities the LA would like to focus on for their community; • how information about meetings and decisions will be publicised. This must be at least on the council website for transparency for community members; and • the use of interpreters

PRINCIPLE: Community-centred, place based engagement***What does this mean?***

The way the council and LA engage with each other and the community is place-based and adapts to local needs, languages, time frames and cultural protocols to encourage community involvement.

What does this look like?

- LAs will recommend to their council the process for community engagement and two-way communication between the council, LA and community
- Community engagement is supported by principles of the Remote Engagement and Coordination Strategy
- Communication is clear and accessible.
- LAs with their councils decide the nature and format of reports to be provided by councils to LAs – brief, diagrammatic reports are enough
- LAs and their councils decide how the feedback about priorities is given to the LA and community in a timely way such as through the Council Community Based Manager, local council member or LA chair outside of meetings if needed
- Regional councils support their LAs to host at least one community based event each year to support community input into LA priorities, and council planning. These events may be funded through some LAPP. For example, some LAs may hold community barbecues twice per year: to provide input into LA priorities and council plans for their area; and to receive feedback about how the LA and council has responded to that input.
- Information is provided by regional councils in LA meeting agenda papers on:
 - Decisions that council has made based on the LA's recommendations and advice
 - Council resources and service delivery in the community.
 - Progress / status updates on LA project recommendations.
 - The amount of funding that is available to the LA for community priorities.

PRINCIPLE: Empowerment***What does this mean?***

LAs have authority to effectively carry out their core role as intended in the Act.

What does this look like?

Where LAs seek to do so, regional councils consider opportunities for delegation of relevant decisions to LAs consistent with the *Local Government Act 2019*, including decision making about priorities for LA project funds

Councils, with CM&C assistance, provide training and resources to support professional development of LA chairs and members in governance and the LA role; and clearly communicate the role of LAs and regional councils to communities.

PRINCIPLE: Outcome-focused	
<i>What does this mean?</i>	LAs (and communities) can see that their recommendations to the council, based on community engagement, are being acted on; where this is not the case, they are informed of the reason.
<i>What does this look like?</i>	Council annual reports include information that demonstrates how they have engaged with communities via their LA, and the outcomes delivered in response to LA recommendations/decisions. Compliance activity by CM&C will focus on the intended outcome of LAs

PRINCIPLE: Accountability	
<i>What does this mean?</i>	LAs and their councils continue to demonstrate high standards in governance and the use of public resources
<i>What does this look like?</i>	LAs have opportunities for professional development in governance consistent with their core role through their council and/or with support from CM&C if requested Decision making is transparent, focused on the best interests of the community as a whole, and conflicts of interest are managed. Information is accessible to community members about meetings, meeting proceedings, and opportunities for participation. Meetings are generally open to community members unless there is a defined need for confidentiality consistent with the provisions in the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .

5. Examples of Good Practice

To be discussed with, and provided by, regional councils.

6. Next Steps

This report will be provided to regional councils and other stakeholders for comment and input. Regional councils are encouraged to engage with their LAs in developing feedback. CM&C is available to assist as needed.

An implementation plan will be drafted for feedback from regional councils and LAs through their respective councils. The implementation plan will be developed through a reference group led by CM&C with the Local Government Association of the NT, and council and LA representatives.

The final LA Review report and Implementation Plan will be provided to the Minister for Local Government for consideration and approval. It is intended that this will be completed within the first quarter of 2023.

The LA Project Fund grant funding guidelines will be reviewed in 2022-23 in consultation with regional councils along with Guideline 1. Any recommendations for changes will then be advised to the Minister for Local Government for consideration for implementation in 2023-24.

OPERATIONAL REPORTS



ITEM NUMBER	12.2
TITLE	Urapunga Local Authority Projects Update
REFERENCE	1308380
AUTHOR	Puspa KARKI, Executive Assistant Community Services and Engagement

RECOMMENDATION

That the Urapunga Local Authority receives and notes the Local Authority Projects Update report.

KEY OUTCOME AREA

Infrastructure: Support building and maintaining community infrastructure which positively contributes to resident needs and aspirations.

BACKGROUND

The Northern Territory Government, through the Department of Local Government, provides an allocation of funds for the Local Authority for its use on local community projects. In total the Department has allocated \$77,600 of which \$58,800 has been allocated by the Local Authority leaving \$18,610 unallocated, including the overspend on completed projects.

ISSUES/OPTIONS/SWOT

Please refer to the attached.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**Unallocated funds**

The Urapunga Local Authority currently has \$18,610 to allocate to new projects.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Urapunga LA projects attachment 31.10.2022.pdf

Urapunga Local Authority Project Funding		31 October 2022
Funds received from Department	\$	77,600.00
Funds allocated to projects by Local Authority Members	\$	58,800.00
Surplus/(Deficit) from completed projects	\$	(190.00)
Remaining Unallocated funds	\$	18,610.00

Date Approved	Project ID	Projects	Project Budget	Actual Expenditure	Project Status
18//8/2020		Irrigation	\$ 10,000.00		
18//8/2020		Community Hall	\$ 10,000.00		Being scoped up
18//8/2020		Welcome Sign	\$ 10,000.00		
28/06/2022		Solar Lights to Store	\$ 18,800.00	\$ 14,406.00	Purchased and delivered solar lights and premix. Awaiting on internal invoice.
		Total for current projects in progress	\$ 48,800.00	\$ 14,406.00	
		Total for completed projects	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,190.00	
		Grand Total	\$ 58,800.00	\$ 24,596.00	

OPERATIONAL REPORTS



ITEM NUMBER	12.3
TITLE	Council Financial Report for the period 01.07.2022 - 31.10.2022
REFERENCE	1308851
AUTHOR	Manisha CHAMKUR, Financial Accountant

RECOMMENDATION

That the Urapunga Local Authority receives and notes the Financial (Expenditure) Report for the period 01 July 2022 to 31 October 2022.

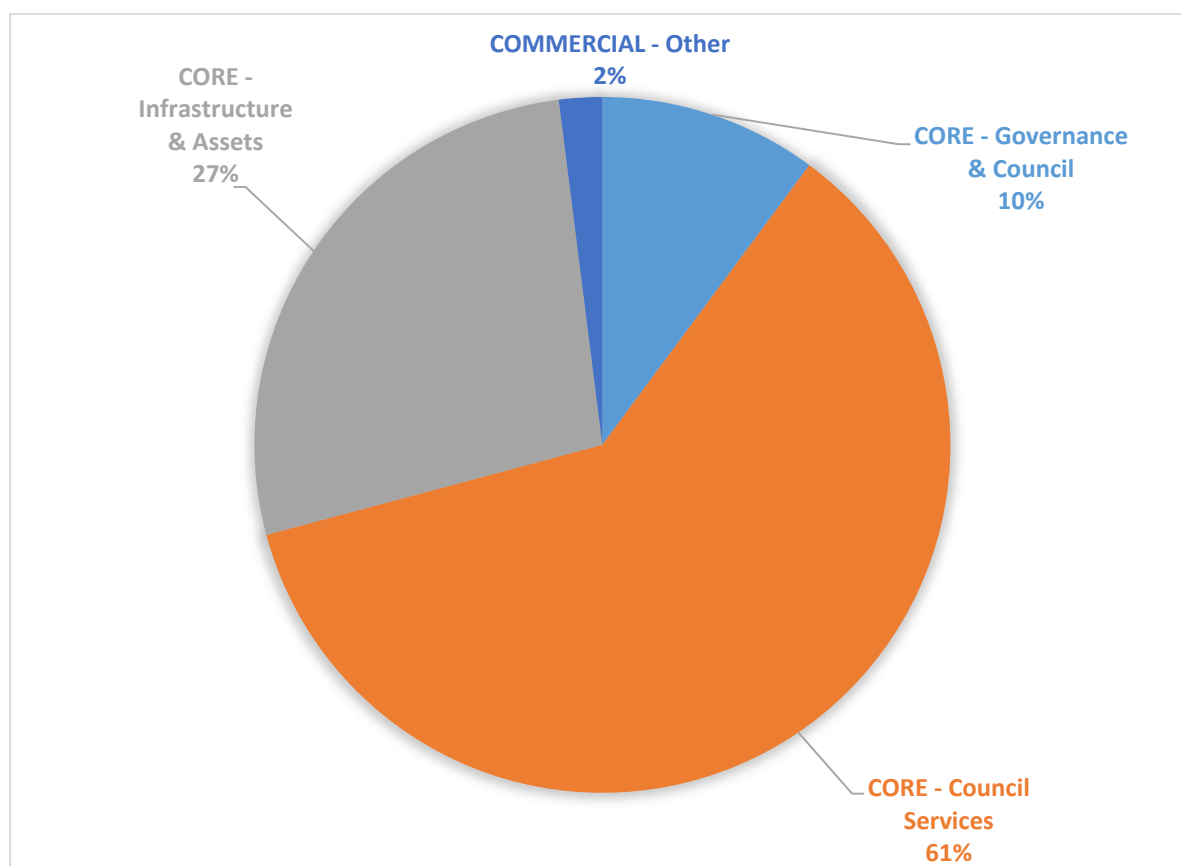
KEY OUTCOME AREA

Economic Development: Foster strengthening and growing jobs, industries, and investment attraction.

BACKGROUND

As per the *Local Government Act 2019* and its statutory instruments, the council is to submit a current financial report of actual expenditure against the latest approved budget for the Local Authority area.

The below graph depicts the proportion of accumulated expenditures by service category in the community.



ISSUES/OPTIONS/SWOT

There are underspends/overspends in few activities as outlined in the attached expenditure report. The brief explanation for these underspends/overspends for each division is as follows:

Operating Income:

Council received \$1,089 in operating income for Urapunga which is leading to a variance of \$3,731. The main cause in variance is from Local Authority Funding. Due to recently adopted accounting standards, tied funds can only be recognised as income once obligations are met. Once projects reach further stages of completion, income will be recognised from liability.

Operating Expenditure:

The total variance in operating expenditure is \$330,583. The major cause of variance is from less internal cost allocations incurred for workshop as compared to the budget.

Capital Expenditure:


The total underspend for capital expenditure is \$82,024. Please see the project register for further detail.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

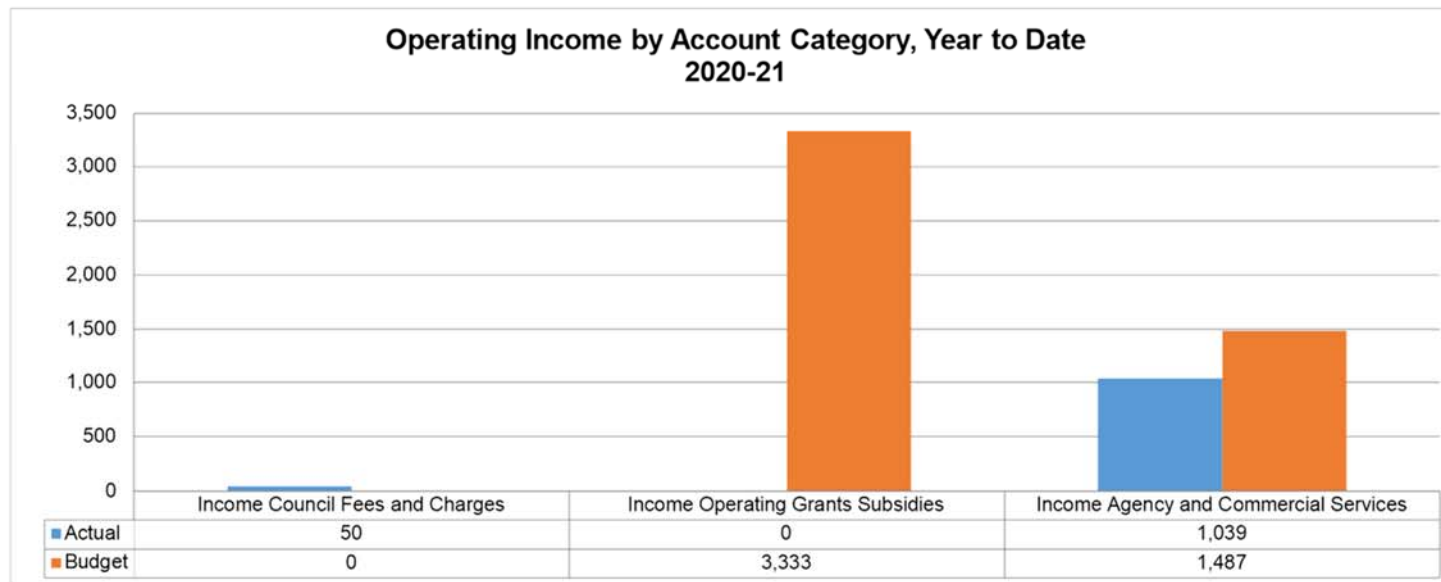
Nil

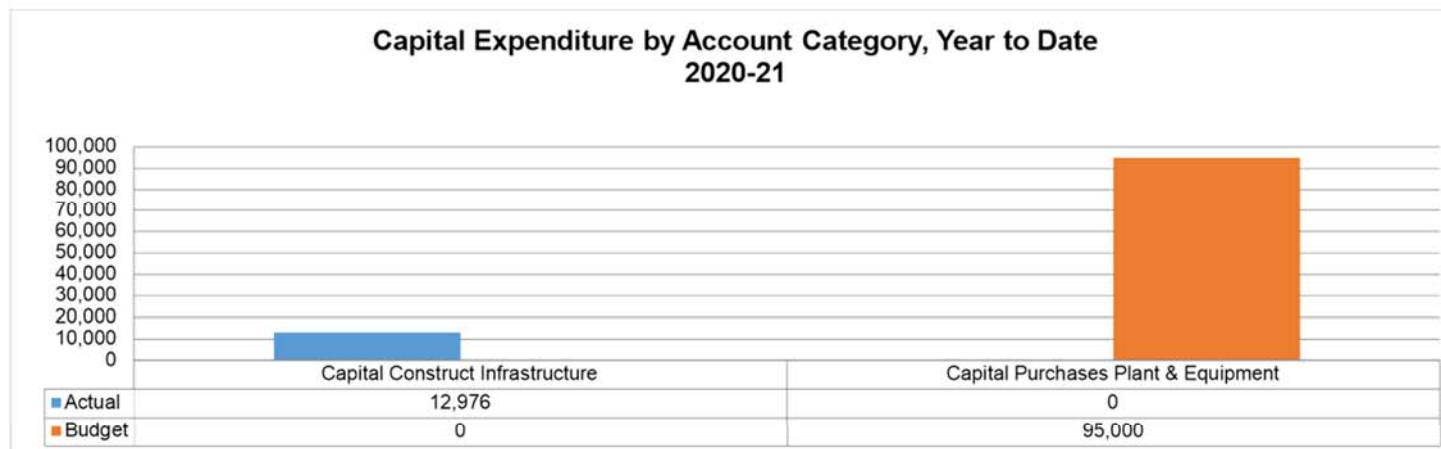
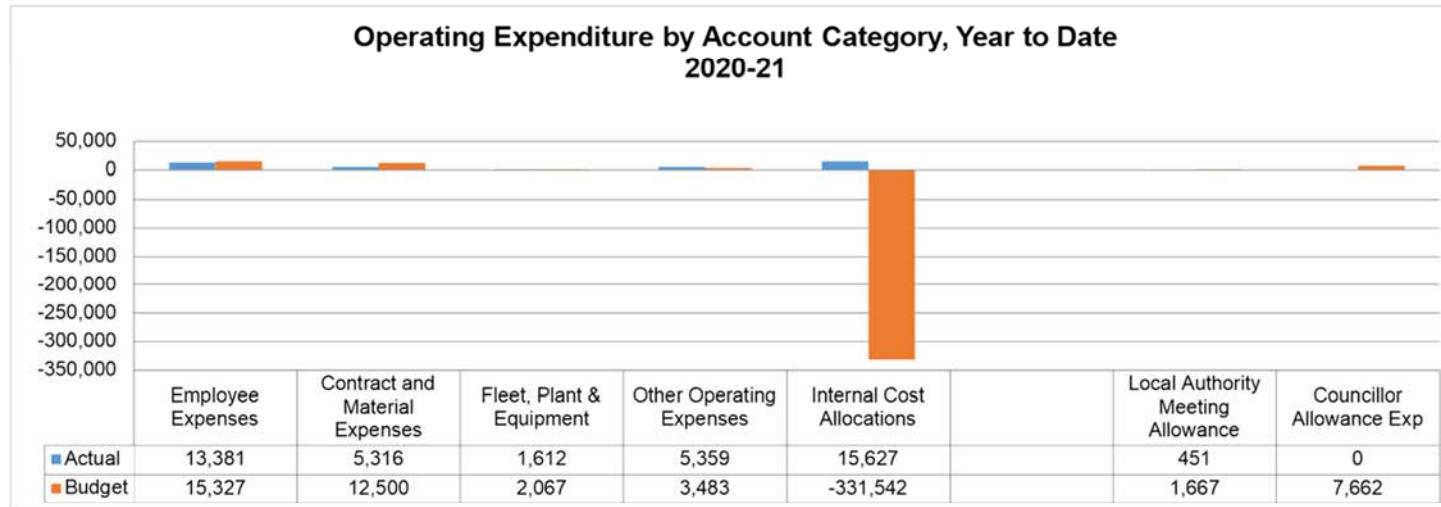
ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Financial Report 31.10.2022.pdf

Roper Gulf Regional Council					
Financial Report as at					
31-October-2022					
Urapunga					
	Year to Date Actual (\$)	Year to Date Budget (\$)	Variance (\$)	Full Year Budget (\$)	Explanation
Income					
Income Council Fees and Charges	50	0	50	0	
Income Operating Grants Subsidies	0	3,333	-3,333	10,000	
Income Agency and Commercial Services	1,039	1,487	-448	4,460	
Total Operating Income	1,089	4,820	-3,731	14,460	
Operating Expenditure					
Employee Expenses	13,381	15,327	-1,946	45,982	
Contract and Material Expenses	5,316	12,500	-7,184	37,500	
Fleet, Plant & Equipment	1,612	2,067	-455	6,200	
Other Operating Expenses	5,359	3,483	1,876	10,450	
Internal Cost Allocations	15,627	-331,542	347,169	-994,625	The major cause of variance is due to less internal workshop costs incurred as compared to the budget.
Local Authority Meeting Allowance	451	1,667	-1,216	5,000	
Councillor Allowance Exp	0	7,662	-7,662	22,985	
Total Expenditure	41,747	-288,836	330,583	-866,508	
Operating Surplus/Deficit	-40,658	293,656	-334,314	880,968	
Capital Funding					
	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	

Capital Expenditure					
Capital Construct Infrastructure	12,976	0	12,976	0	Please refer to projects register for further details.
Capital Purchases Plant & Equipment	0	95,000	-95,000	95,000	The variance is caused due to no capital expenditure incurred as compared to the budget.
Total Capital Expenditure	12,976	95,000	-82,024	95,000	
Net Operating Position	-53,634	198,656	-252,290	785,968	





OPERATIONAL REPORTS



ITEM NUMBER	12.4
TITLE	Elected Member Report
REFERENCE	1309220
AUTHOR	Chloe IRLAM, Governance Engagement Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

That the Urapunga Local Authority receive and note the Elected Member Report.

KEY OUTCOME AREA

Governance: Increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the organisation, including in engagement with staff members, residents and external stakeholders.

BACKGROUND

The Elected Member Report provides Local Authorities with a summary of the decisions made at Ordinary Meetings of Council and Committee meetings since the previous Local Authority Meeting. The aim of this report is to convey the information from those meetings to the Local Authority members, and then from the Local Authority to the wider community.

Complete details of all Council, Committee and Local Authority agendas and minutes, are publicly available at www.ropergulf.nt.gov.au and can be provided upon request at all the Roper Gulf Regional Council offices.

ISSUES/OPTIONS/SWOT**FINANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING – 23 NOVEMBER 2022**

The Finance and Infrastructure Committee consists of;

- Awais UR REHMAN – Independent Member
- Mayor Tony JACK;
- Deputy Mayor Judy MacFARLANE;
- Councillor Samuel EVANS;
- Councillor Owen TURNER;
- Councillor Helen LEE;
- Councillor Annabelle DAYLIGHT; and
- Councillor Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR.

The Finance and Infrastructure Committee Meeting discussed roadside memorials in Ngukurr. The committee did not support the instatement of a memorial being constructed on the Roper Highway in Nugkurr and requested the Chief Executive Officer to provide further information and construct a policy regarding memorials on Council owned/controlled reserves.

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING – 31 OCTOBER 2022

The Audit and Risk Committee consists of;

- Ian SWAN – Independent Member;
- Carolyn EAGLE – Independent Member;
- Claudia GOLDSMITH – Independent Member;
- Councillor Gadrian HOOSAN; and
- Councillor John DALYWATER.

There were no direct subjects pertaining to the Yugul Mangi Ward discussed at the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting.

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL – 26 OCTOBER 2022

Council approved the recommendations from the following Local Authority meetings:

- Ngukurr Local Authority Meeting held on 20 September 2022 with **quorum**
- *Noted* the recommendations from the Urapunga Local Authority Meeting held on 20 September 2022 as a **provisional**

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL – 28 SEPTEMBER 2022

Council noted that there were no current recommendations from the Yugul Mangi Ward to be approved and that Council made the resolution to hold the October 2023 Ordinary Meeting of Council in Ngukurr Community. More details regarding this event will be made available closer to the meeting date.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

14 December 2022 at 8:30am	Ordinary Meeting of Council	RGRC Support Centre Katherine
18 January 2023 at 10:00am	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting	RGRC Support Centre Katherine
25 January 2023 at 8:30am	Ordinary Meeting of Council	RGRC Support Centre Katherine

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil.

ATTACHMENTS

OPERATIONAL REPORTS

ITEM NUMBER	12.5
TITLE	Local Authority Member Attendance Report
REFERENCE	1309221
AUTHOR	Chloe IRLAM, Governance Engagement Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

That the Urapunga Local Authority receives and notes the Local Authority Member Attendance Report.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 2019*, deals with Local Authority Administration Members may be removed from a Local Authority if they are absent from two (2) consecutive meetings without authorisation.

Urapunga Local Authority Meetings Member Attendance

Local Authority Meeting Members	06 September 2022	20 September 2022
Mayor Tony Jack	Meeting Postponed	AP
Councillor Owen Turner	-	AP
Councillor Jana Daniels	-	AP
Dennis DUNCAN	-	P
Elaine DUNCAN	-	AP
Amanda JEFFS	-	NO AP
Paul JEFFS	-	NO AP
Edna NELSON	-	P
Antonella PASCOE	-	P

Key

P Present at LA

AP Apology given and accepted by LA

NO AP Did not attend LA and did not tender any apologies

ISSUES/OPTIONS/SWOT

Nil.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil.

ATTACHMENTS

OPERATIONAL REPORTS



ITEM NUMBER	12.6
TITLE	Council Services Report
REFERENCE	1309285
AUTHOR	Jessica DOWNIE, Acting Council Services Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

That the Urapunga Local Authority receives and notes the Council Services report.

**BACKGROUND
CORE SERVICES****111 – Councils Services Generals**

- Solar Lights - The new solar lights are on the way to Urapunga via Mataranka and we expect these to be in community and working within 2-4 weeks. We are still awaiting the units to come to Ngukurr.
- Street Lights – An audit of the street lights has taken place and the lights are not working (3) are in the process of being replaced. Most recent audit shows 11 lights are currently working.

160 – Municipal Services

- Weed spraying in the community is ongoing in preparation for wet season.
- Rubbish dump in good order and well organized.
- Mowing has increased with the wet season.

OTHER / MISCELLANEOUS

- To get area estimate of regrowth in the aerodrome for DIPL to approve slashing.
- Ngukurr to look at getting the loader to Urapunga before wet season truly kicks in and remove unwanted cars.

ISSUES/OPTIONS/SWOT

Nil.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil.

ATTACHMENTS